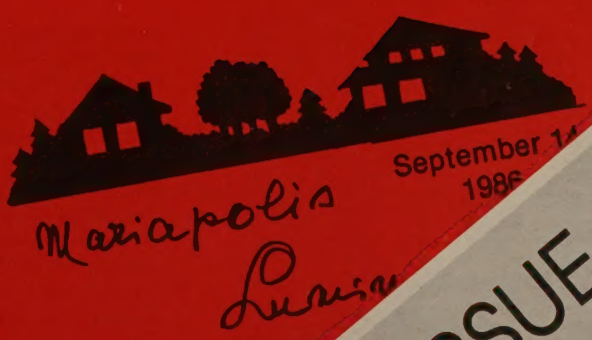
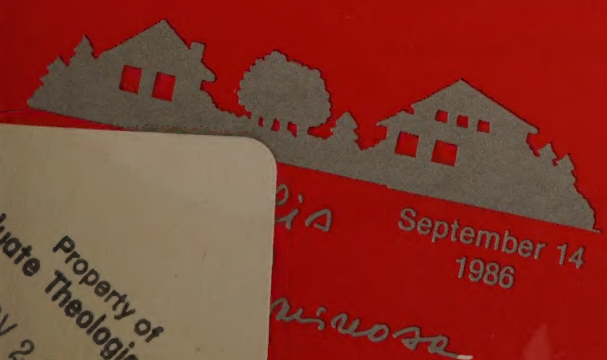
ivingCity

11 1986
VOLUME 25
NOVEMBER
$1.25

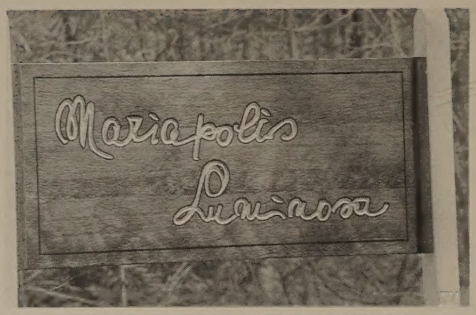




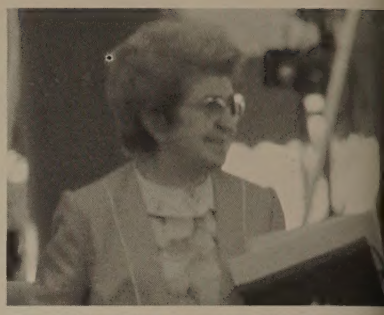
SPECIAL ISSUE

Property of
Graduate Theological Union
NOV 29 1986

livingCity
11 1986 VOLUME 25 NOVEMBER

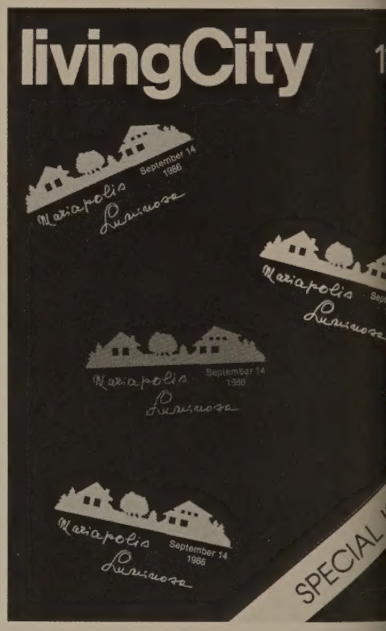


2 *A DAY TO BE REMEMBERED: On Sunday September 14th, the first Permanent Mariapolis of North America was inaugurated.*



8 *INAUGURAL ADDRESS: Natal piccola, representing Chiara Lubich, of the Focolare, spoke about what nent Mariapolis is.*

Sharry Silvi — **Editor**
Phyllis Scaringe — **Assistant Editor**
Anne Lingley — **Managing Editor**
Chiaretta Zanzucchi — **Art Director**
Joseph Klock, Patricia Dreveny, Gail Giacobbe, Daniel Jennings — **Contributing Editors**
Vera Giannini — **Senior Copy Editor**
Richard Tetreau — **Copy Editor**
Denise Silva — **Assistant Art Director**
Bernadette Raha — **Circulation Manager**
Rolf F. Rehe — **Art Consultant**



This issue is dedicated to the Inaug of "Mariapolis Luminosa", the Per Mariapolis for North America.

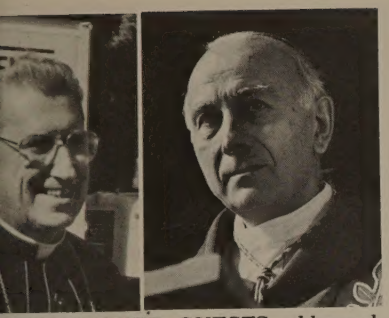
Photos used in this issue by Mario Chris Sheridan, Gen Verde and Tony

Living City is published 11 times a year (10 monthly and a bimonthly issue in August-September) by the Focolare Movement Women's Branch, Inc. a non-profit corporation, P. O. Box 496, New York, NY 10021.
Subscription prices for one year: USA and possessions: US$12.75; Canada: US$19.00; Elsewhere: US$20.00; Air Mail (all countries): US$30.00.
An envelope is enclosed in each magazine for subscription orders and inquiries: LIVING CITY, P. O. Box 126, Jamaica, NY 11415.
©1986 by the Focolare Movement, Women's Branch, Inc. All rights reserved.

OTHER EDITIONS OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT MAGAZINE

ITALIAN: "Citta Nuova" - Via degli Scip 00192 Rome - Italy

FRENCH:
1. "Nouvelle Cite" - 131, Rue Castagnary F75 0 France
2. "Nouvelle Cite" - C.P. 405 - St. Youville - P Canada - H2P 2V6



STINGUISHED GUESTS addressed participants.

22 *GEN VERDE sang at the liturgy and throughout the day concluding with a performance which expressed joy and unity.*

26 *MONTHLY WORD OF LIFE.*

CONTENTS

Sharry Silvi	A day to be remembered	2
Chiara Lubich	"To the Mariapolis Luminosa"	7
Natalia Dallapiccola	What is a Permanent Mariapolis?	8
	Distinguished guests	14
	Gen Verde sang for us	22

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Word of life	26
Christmas Specials 1986	27

H:
ad Nueva"- Av. da Rivadavia 4939 - Buenos - Argentina
ad Nueva"- Ferrer del Rio, 1 Esc A, 2º 5ª Spain
GUESE: "Cidade Nova" CX POSTAL 30 rgem Grande Pta. Sao Paolo - Brazil

CHINESE: "San Sing Seung Yuet Hong" - 70 Waterloo Road 11 B/F - Kowloon - Hong Kong

DUTCH: "Nieuwe Stad" - St. Stephanusstrasse 11 Nijmegen - Holland

GERMAN: "Neue Stadt" - Gleissnerstrasse 87 - 8000 Munchen 83 - Germany

OTHER ENGLISH EDITIONS:

1. "New City" - 57 Twyford Avenue - London W3 England
2. "New City" - P.O. Box 332 - Manila, Philippines
3. "New City" - 367 Balwyn Rd - Balwyn North 3104 - Australia

A DAY TO BE REMEMBERED

By SHARRY SILVI

September 14, "a day to be remembered and treasured; it spoke of God's love for us from beginning to end," a friend from Boston told me.

It was a sunny, cool, breezy, autumn day, the leaves turning red and yellow and brown; a day crowded yet orderly, as if only one person were there, and they were 3,000 and more who came to celebrate the inauguration of Mariapolis Luminosa, the Permanent Mariapolis for North America.

It was a peaceful day, when words and gestures, prayer, music, people's faces, colors, silence and sound seemed to merge together to make of this day a day which someone called "a moment of God."

We, who had worked at preparing the details of the day woke up with a sense of expectation. Behind us we had days ►

More than 3,000 people came to Mariapolis Luminosa to celebrate its inauguration on September 14, 1986. Here we see them gathered under a huge tent erected for the occasion.

of preparation, of work done in unity, of moments of joy and sorrow, of companionship, of fatigue, of high hopes for the future. Now a period was ending and another was beginning.

Cars and chartered buses began to arrive early in the morning bringing people who had come from as far as Northwest Canada, Hawaii, the Caribbean Islands and all parts in between.

Under the huge yellow and orange tent erected for the occasion, the singing began at 9:30. The program ran smoothly, as planned, in the atmosphere of a supernatural family that had come together to celebrate and to deepen their bond of unity in God.

Chiara Lubich sent a message which told us of the great desire she had had to be with us. Through Natalia Dallapiccola who came with Antonio Petrilli to represent her, she also described the eighth Permanent Mariapolis of the Focolare, our "Luminosa," with the following words: *"Here we already see various realities. There is a Mariapolis Center, a small school for women focolarine; some workshops; facilities for the summer Mariapolis and for the various schools of formation in the spirituality of unity of the Movement....*

"We are at the beginning. We must allow Jesus in the midst to build it. It will have its own beauty and its own vocation.

"Will it be ecumenical? Will people of other religions be part of it? Everything leads us to think that it will be so, because above all it must be an expression of this nation, a nation made up of people who have come here from every part of the world.

"This Permanent Mariapolis will be a sample of a new humanity where unity has become a reality."

Later in the morning, a medley of songs took us from Trent, across the ocean to the North American shores, and then from state to state in a musical description of the itinerary chosen by God for the spreading of the Movement in North America.

Bishop Mestice, the Episcopal Vicar for Dutchess County expressed the joy of the local Church for Mariapolis Luminosa.

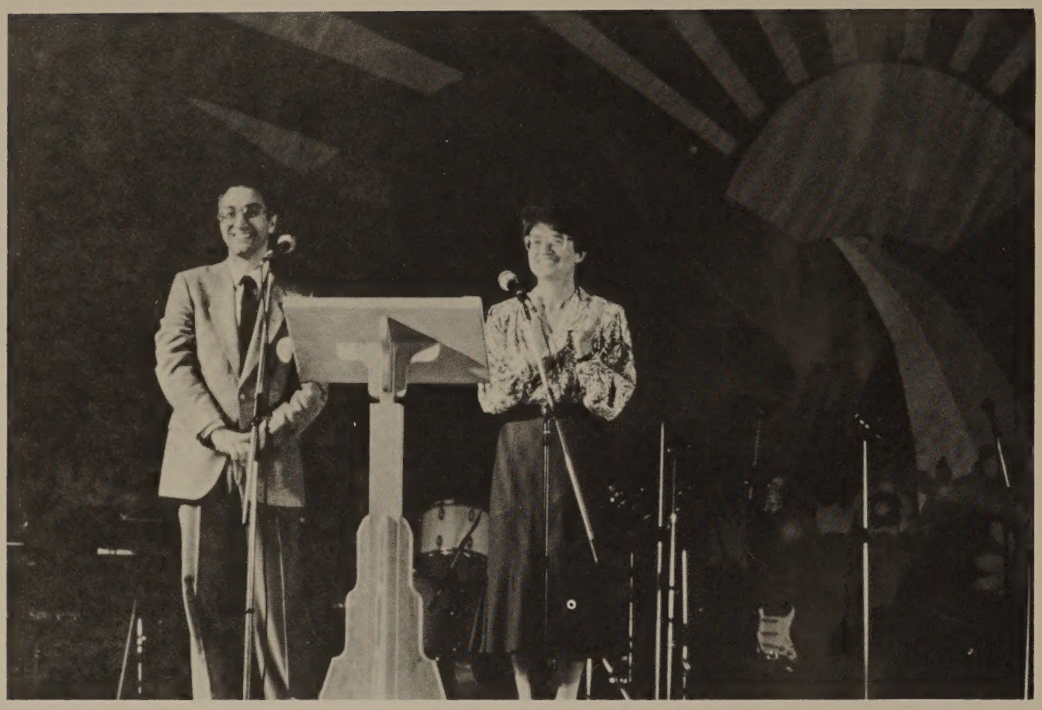
Mr. Glaser, previous owner of the site where "Luminosa" stands today, described the camp he ran as a place where youngsters would develop an understanding that would make real the meaning of peace and brotherhood. It was a camp, in fact, where boys and girls of all races, religions and national backgrounds were welcomed. "To give the camp away had been a difficult decision; but," he said, "knowing the people of Focolare will continue to support in their

Through the hospitality of our neighbor, we were able to use his property as a parking area very close to the site of the tent. Here we see people arriving with cars and buses.

Twelve bishops participated at the celebration. Here we see the arrival of four of them. From the right: Bishop William Keeler of Harrisburg, PA; Bishop James Timlin of Scranton, PA; Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio; Bishop Charles Grahmann of Victoria in Texas.

own way many of our ideals and goal, has made the transition a much easier one..."

At this point a glass case containing a parchment with the names of all those who had contributed in some way to the building of Mariapolis Luminosa was officially presented to Natalia to bring to Chiara. The ►



Sharry Silvi and Julian Ciabattini, National Directors for the Movement in the United States, opened the day by introducing the groups coming from different parts of the continent.

case will be returned and will remain on display in the hall of the Mariapolis Center of the "city" as a remembrance.

Archbishop Pio Laghi was the main celebrant at the Roman Catholic Mass. During the homily he spoke of a bridge between Rome and New York thus emphasizing the presence of the Holy Father through him, and of a second bridge between New York and Rocca di Papa where Chiara was.

The warmth of his love for the Movement was present in his every word: "... Our greatly divided world needs you," he said. "It looks to you to provide what Pope John Paul refers to as the enthusiasm that is typical of your Movement...."

Referring to the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross he remarked: "This is a place where the cross is truly at home, where Jesus is truly at home. In fact, central to the life of every member of the Focolare Movement, the cross serves as a constant reminder of the presence of the forsaken Christ whom each of you strives to emulate in your daily lives. This is the place where love, true love, is at home, where Jesus is present in our midst, where Mary is at work with us and for us. This is indeed the Work of Mary, Opus Mariae. It is a real joy for me to share this happy moment with all of you, together as brothers and sisters in the Lord...."

The Episcopal Eucharist followed.

Then it was time for lunch and people ate together in smaller or larger groups. There was even time for a brief visit to the Mariapolis, dressed up for the occasion.

They saw the school for the focolarine, the house of the focolarini, the Mariapolis Center with the "just finished" Caribbean style dining room in honor of our friends who live there and who had sent items typical of their land.

At the ceramics and arts and crafts shop they met the "artists" of our little city. At the Western Corner they were greeted by real Texans showing murals painted western style for decoration.

The cafeteria was the room prepared for those who wished to receive some more information about the Movement. Three slide presentations were available together with a large model of the Permanent Mariapolis.

Cardinal O'Connor came in the afternoon. He captured the audience and made all laugh and cry, leading everyone to hope and pray that his generous words for us may be a reality.

"The genius of the Focolare Movement," he said, "is that it doesn't try to stay up on the mountain, rather, it sends its people out into the world to recreate that order that Almighty God intended, to spread tranquillity, harmony, to radiate grace."

The Cardinal reminded us that Mary, in going to visit her cousin Elizabeth, had radiated Christ simply with her presence, thus being the cause of the purification of John the Baptist from original sin.

"This is what you do," he added, "you take Christ with

A message from Chiara Lubich was read to all the participants.

you wherever you go, and I mean this with deepest sincerity.... I would ask you then, and I feel that I can ask you appropriately for the bishops of the United States ... that you continue not simply to do what you do, but to be what you are...."

The whole afternoon was full of music, with the Gen Verde concert applauded enthusiastically by the audience.

At 6 p.m. everyone left, as peacefully as they had arrived. Not a piece of paper on the ground, not a paper cup, not a can.

At sunset Luminosa had a golden touch that made it precious looking. None of us who had worked at building it and at preparing the big day was taken by that sense of exhaustion that falls upon you when everything is over, exactly because nothing was over. September 15 would be another day to wake up with a sense of expectation for what God would prepare for us along the way of this divine adventure that life is all about. □

September 14, 1986

To the Mariapolis Luminosa,

I am spiritually present with the whole Movement for the inauguration of Mariapolis Luminosa, and it is my wish that this most recent little city of the Focolare may blossom and grow in accordance with God's plan.

May it be the "home" that welcomes and makes all "one", all those who come here; may Mary, the Mother, be present in each one of its inhabitants.

I would like to thank the many who have contributed in different ways towards making this little city a reality through the sharing of material possessions, hard work, prayers, and above all, I thank you for your love for Jesus Forsaken.

My warmest greetings to all here present, and in particular to the gen, the youth, who in the permanent Mariapolis, have a very important role.

Very special greetings to the Bishops whom I thank for their presence and for their blessing.

I would also like to thank personally those who have written to me on this occasion—and there are hundreds of you—expressing their faithfulness to our Ideal.

And, in order to remain in the Word of Life of this month, I hope and pray that this "little city" may give the greatest joy to God.

To all I send my heart

Chiara

WHAT IS A PERMANENT MARIAPOLIS?

Natalia Dallapiccola, who had come from Rome for the occasion, delivered the inaugural address.

Your Excellencies, Archbishop Laghi, Archbishop Cheli, welcome representatives of the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Romanian Orthodox Churches, distinguished guests, dearest friends who are here from all over North America.

We are here today to inaugurate this city that God's providence has given us and to which Chiara has given the name of Luminosa after a focolarina who last year left for the heavenly Mariapolis.

Today we will talk about the Permanent Mariapolis, and in order to do this we must go back and look at God's plan for these little cities as Chiara understood it from the beginning.

Chiara had the first inspiration about a little city in 1959, at the conclusion of the temporary Mariapolis which for ten years had taken place every summer in the Dolomite mountains in northern Italy. People of every age, continent and social background participated. They came together for the sole purpose of putting into practice the commandment of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn. 13:34).

The Mariapolis was in those years an extraordinary reality, a city of light.

Many people saw there that little "city placed on the mountaintop" (Mt. 5:14), and they commented, "This is the way the world should be."

At the same time Chiara felt the desire to see it multiplied all over the earth.

And this is what happened. Today about 100 Mariapolises take place all over the world.

In 1962 then, Chiara, looking down from a hilltop at the Benedictine abbey of Einsiedeln, in Switzerland, understood that a city, or better many small cities would come to life in the Movement—many permanent Mariapolises.

"We will pass away," she said, "but these Mariapolises will remain forever."

"These cities, these concrete expressions of our spirituality," Chiara said, "will have all the elements characteristic of cities today. There will be houses, schools, workshops, a chapel, motels, an auditorium for meetings, a printing press, an audiovisual center, various activities, typical of our times.... There will be families living there, children, people who work, teachers and students, religious, priests.... And, as in the temporary Mariapolis, there will always be above all, Jesus in the midst because of mutual love.

"The presence of the Mariapolis in the world will be a living presence of Mary through those who are a part of it, in accordance with the vocation of all the members of the Movement, that is, to live individually and all together like Mary, and like her, to give Jesus to the world today."

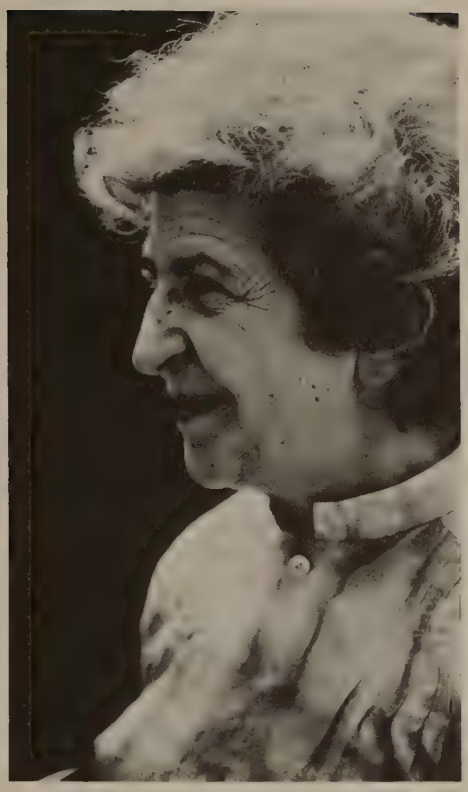
These cities are called to be an anticipation of the heavenly Jerusalem about which it is written, "This is God's dwelling among men. He shall dwell with them and they shall be his people and he shall be their God who is always with them" (Ap. 21:3).

Many little cities soon came to life. In 1963 the first one Loppiano, Italy. In the following years, others: in Africa, in Germany, Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines, Switzerland, and now this beautiful Mariapolis Luminosa.

Every little city has its own characteristic—Chiara once said in Loppiano—according to the place where each one comes to life. Each one, however, contains or will contain the entire Work of Mary with all its expressions, its activities, its goals and above all its fundamental law: the New Commandment.

"Here each one is called to live it. Each one must be ready to give his or her life for the other. Every inhabitant young or old—having one day chosen God who is love and wants us to love one another—lives so that the Mariapolis may be a blaze of love.

"This then is the specific vocation of every Mariapolis: to be a living witness of the presence of the Risen Lord in us and in our midst because of this mutual love."



Natalia Dallapiccola at "Luminosa". She was with Chiara at the onset of the Movement.

What are the effects of this reality?

"In this atmosphere the words of God are highlighted with a new light, they are understood in depth, and imprinted in the souls of individuals with a brand of fire. And since these words are love, they increase our mutual love, which is expressed in an always greater self-giving for others, in a total communion of spiritual and material goods.

"In this atmosphere, all the aspects of daily life—work and study, prayer and moments of relaxation, hospitality, the most various encounters—all acquire new meaning."

Those who visit these cities therefore witness a unique reality, an uncommon one.

These cities, in fact, just by their very existence, should bear witness to what the world would be like if everyone tried to live and love according to the law of God who is love.

What counts therefore is to be one in him so that the world may believe, so that all may be one in accordance with the last prayer of Jesus.

Unity: this is the charism God has given to Chiara. "That all may be one": this is the specific goal of every permanent Mariapolis and of the entire Movement. This is why we want to spread unity in the whole world, trying to develop, in every possible way, dialogue with every person.

Therefore, Chiara affirmed, every little city, which is a city-home of the Work of Mary, welcomes all the various vocations: focolarini, married focolarini, volunteers, gen, priests, religious and so on. Catholics, but not only; Christians of other traditions, the faithful of other religions and all people of good will, all of this in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council.

This bears great witness in the world. Our little cities can and must give it.

But what can we say of *this* little city?

I asked Chiara and she answered: "Here at Mariapolis Luminosa we already see various realities. There is a Mariapolis Center; a small school for women focolarine; some workshops; facilities for the summer Mariapolis and for the various schools of formation in the spirituality of the Movement.

We are at the beginning.

We must allow Jesus in the midst to build it.

It will have its own beauty, and its own vocation.

Will it be an ecumenical Mariapolis? Will people of other religions be a part of it?

Everything leads us to think that it will be so, because above all it must be an expression of this nation. A nation made up of people who have come here from every part of the world.

This Permanent Mariapolis will be a sample of a New Humanity where unity has become a reality. □

At the conclusion of the morning, the official ceremony of the inauguration took place: a glass case, containing a parchment with the names of those who have contributed in some way to the building of Mariapolis Luminosa up to this point, was presented to Natalia for Chiara. The case will be on display in the meeting hall of the Mariapolis Center at Luminosa. It will remind us of what has been accomplished in unity, and of what is still to be done.

THE SPREADING OF THE MOVEMENT IN NORTH AMERICA IN SONG

Through a medley of songs, directed by Rob Viens, the spreading of the Focolare Movement throughout North America was presented.

The songs were linked by this narration:

"In 1960 it reached the new world. The door: New York. Here the first focolare opened in 1961.

The Midwest was next. Chicago welcomed the little group that had come to stay on a cold December morning in 1964. The city was white with snow.

Meanwhile ... from ocean to ocean Canada was coming alive: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver.

Then New England: Boston, Springfield, Rhode Island, and ... we sang a different tune.

The South welcomed us in the 70's with fine hospitality and the warmth of lasting relationships— North and South Carolina, Georgia and deeper still ... Texas, the Friendship State. Here the Ideal exploded and then moved westward to Arizona and the desert, and onward still towards the ocean, to California.

If we could have a light there where a large or small community of the Focolare is present on the map of the continent, we would see it all aglow.

Silently but forcefully the fire of this Ideal keeps spreading,
Unity the goal!
- closer each day
- closer today!"

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS . . .

Many were the distinguished guests present at Mariapolis Luminosa on September 14th. Some of them, however, shared remarks with all the participants.

Bishop Anthony J. Mestice, the Episcopal Vicar of Dutchess County, N.Y., where Mariapolis Luminosa is located, extended a hearty welcome to the Focolare. Among other things he said:

"... What a delight it is to be uplifted and to have a new hope and a new love as we live the Word of God and bring Jesus to one another! We have so much to do and so much to give to one another! May the Lord always keep us renewed, refreshed with a new sense of his presence with us. May we always most generously and most thoughtfully share this love with one another.... Welcome to Dutchess County and bring this love to all people...."

Mr. Glaser, the previous owner of the site where Mariapolis Luminosa stands today spoke to all in moving words about Camp Trywoodie, as his camp was called.

"...A little over 31 years ago four of us came here. We wanted to build and run a children's camp. Not an ordinary children's camp, not a run-of-the-mill children's camp but one where we could encourage and welcome boys and girls of all races, all religions, all national backgrounds to spend a summer together in a country setting. Here they would come to have a fun vacation, and to learn from each other the richness that all groups contribute to our lives. We were convinced that by living together, playing together and working together, these youngsters would develop an understanding that would make real the meaning of peace and brotherhood.

We also knew that they would need to learn from the adult world so we hired a staff of young adults from all over the world, (many of the places I hear are represented here today), and from all over the United States. From these people of the many cultures they represented they heard new and exciting stories, they learned new games, and came to appreciate the very contributions these staff were making to their lives. We were convinced that all this would affect the outlook of these children and help them grow into concerned, peace-loving adults....

Over these years many thousand children and staff spent their summers at Camp Trywoodie and we sincerely believe that they are better human beings for having been here....

Rima, my wife, and I have gotten to know many of the people here at Mariapolis Luminosa these past months and I think we've become good friends. We've turned over to them what we feel is a beautiful site which we developed with love and care. Let me tell you the decision was a difficult one but knowing the people of Focolare will continue to support in their own way many of our ideals and goals has made the transition a much easier one. You've made a wonderful beginning and we wish you a happy and successful future here in Dutchess County."

Specifically for the occasion of the inauguration, Pope John Paul II sent his blessing to the members and friends of the Focolare signing it himself.

To the members of the Focolare Movement and their associates on the joyous occasion of the inauguration of their Mariapoli "Luminosa" in the United States of America, I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of divine grace and favor.

From the Vatican, August 20, 1986

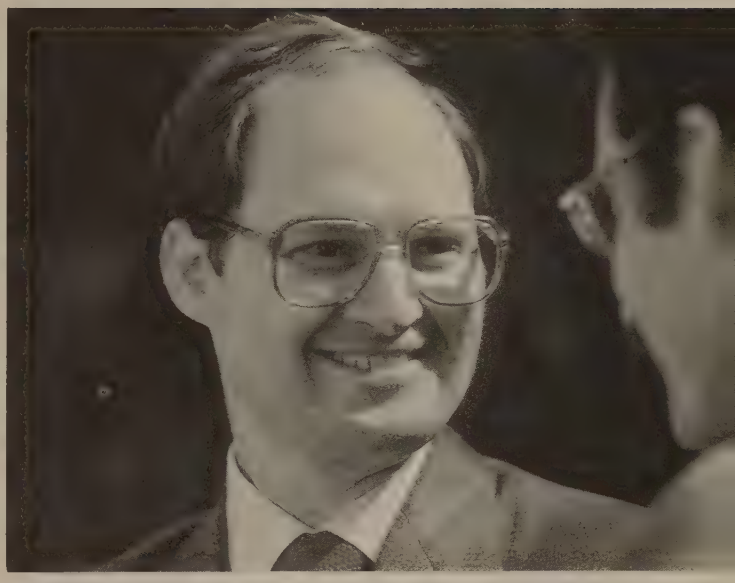
Joannes Paulus PP II

At midday, a Roman Catholic Mass was celebrated with Archbishop Pio Laghi Apostolic Pro-Nuncio as main celebrant.

Ten bishops and a large group of priests concelebrated. Below from right to left: Bishop Angelo Acerra of the Military Ordinariate; Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, TX; Bishop Charles Grahmann of Victoria in Texas; Bishop William Keeler of Harrisburg, PA; Bishop Austin Vaughan, Auxiliary Bishop of New York; Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua of Pittsburgh, PA; Bishop Sean O'Malley of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; Bishop Giovanni Cheli, Permanent Observer of the Vatican to the United Nations and Bishop Anthony Mestice, Auxiliary Bishop of New York.

Right: There were also present the official representatives of the Greek Orthodox, Romanian Orthodox and Armenian Churches.

LUNCH TIME
A moment to talk and visit



Cardinal O'Connor arrived at Luminosa in the early afternoon. Here we see three moments of his visit. Left: the arrival at the tent.

Right: The Cardinal is seated between Fr. Antonio Petrilli and Natalia Dallapiccola. Opposite page: He is addressing the crowd.

GEN VERDE SANG FOR US

Gen Verde sang at the liturgy and throughout the day concluding with a performance which expressed joy and unity.

Twenty-two young women focolarine from eleven countries. They portrayed the unity they try to live. "Breakthrough" was the name of their concert. The story was imbued with hope and light. "Breakthrough" spoke of a new dawn, of a rising dawn, of a rising sun illuminating the thousand roads towards a world of unity. It's not a dream—they sang—because love makes it possible. It wasn't difficult to believe it at the end of such a day.

NEW CITY PRESS presents:

the complete list of books in English
by CHIARA LUBICH

AN EXCELLENT GIFT
FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES AND NEIGHBORS

Chiara's Diary 1964, '65
(soon to be released)

Encounters in Asia
(soon to be released)

The Eucharist
94 pages - $2.95

Jesus in the midst
86 pages - $2.95

Journey
151 pages - $4.95

Knowing how to lose
149 pages - $4.95

May they all be one
96 pages - $3.95

Meditations (NEW TRANSLATION)
134 pages - $4.95

Our yes to God
120 pages - $3.95

Servants of all
176 pages - $3.50

Unity and Jesus Forsaken
107 pages - $4.95

When did we see you, Lord?
134 pages - $3.50

When our love is charity
84 pages - $2.45

The Word of Life
57 pages - $2.95

Words to live by
160 pages - $4.50

Yes, yes No, no
151 pages - $4.25

...and books on Chiara Lubich

An interview with Chiara Lubich
by William Proctor
74 pages - $4.95

Stars and tears
by Michel Pochet
153 pages -$5.25

To order: write to New City Press Room L
206 Skillman Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Please enclose a check or money order for the price of the book(s), plus 10 percent ($1.25 minimum) for shipping and handling.

WORD OF LIFE

"Let us then cast off
the works of darkness
and put on
the armor of light."

(Romans 13:12)

The word makes us live.

The word makes us free.

The word guarantees happiness.

The word converts.

The word purifies us.

The word draws us to our specific vocations.

The word brings forth the hatred of the world and the sanctity of the disciple.

The word makes us see the truth.

The word brings comfort.

The word gives us joy.

The word produces works.

The word gives wisdom.

The word preserves us from human concerns.

The word obtains everything.

The word brings about union with God.

The word gives us hope of eternal life.

The word makes us one.

The word changes one's mentality.

The word makes each soul a heaven.

"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

In the immediately preceding paragraph of the same letter Paul had spurred on the Christians of Rome to put all their efforts into living mutual love. The purpose of his exhortation was that Christians would recognize the importance of the times in which they lived. They were living in the time of salvation which was begun by Jesus' coming on earth and which would reach its fulfillment with his return. It was a time of incalculable value and was not to be wasted. However long the time span might be separating them from Jesus' return, their whole lives should be inspired by the fact that one day they would meet Jesus. Each moment, every action was of value to the extent that it enabled them to prepare for this meeting.

"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

"The works of darkness" were the works of the "old self;"[1] the result of the violence, vice, lack of restraint into which Christians fell while they were still in the darkness of error.

Now that they had come to know Jesus and had learned that he would return, they could not live as they had before. They were to eliminate sin from their lives, strip themselves of bad habits, and strive to overcome their inclination toward evil day by day. They were to go to meet Jesus wearing "the armor of light," meaning clothed in virtue, living his word, especially love of neighbor. When Jesus comes again he will recognize them only if he finds them clothed with himself.

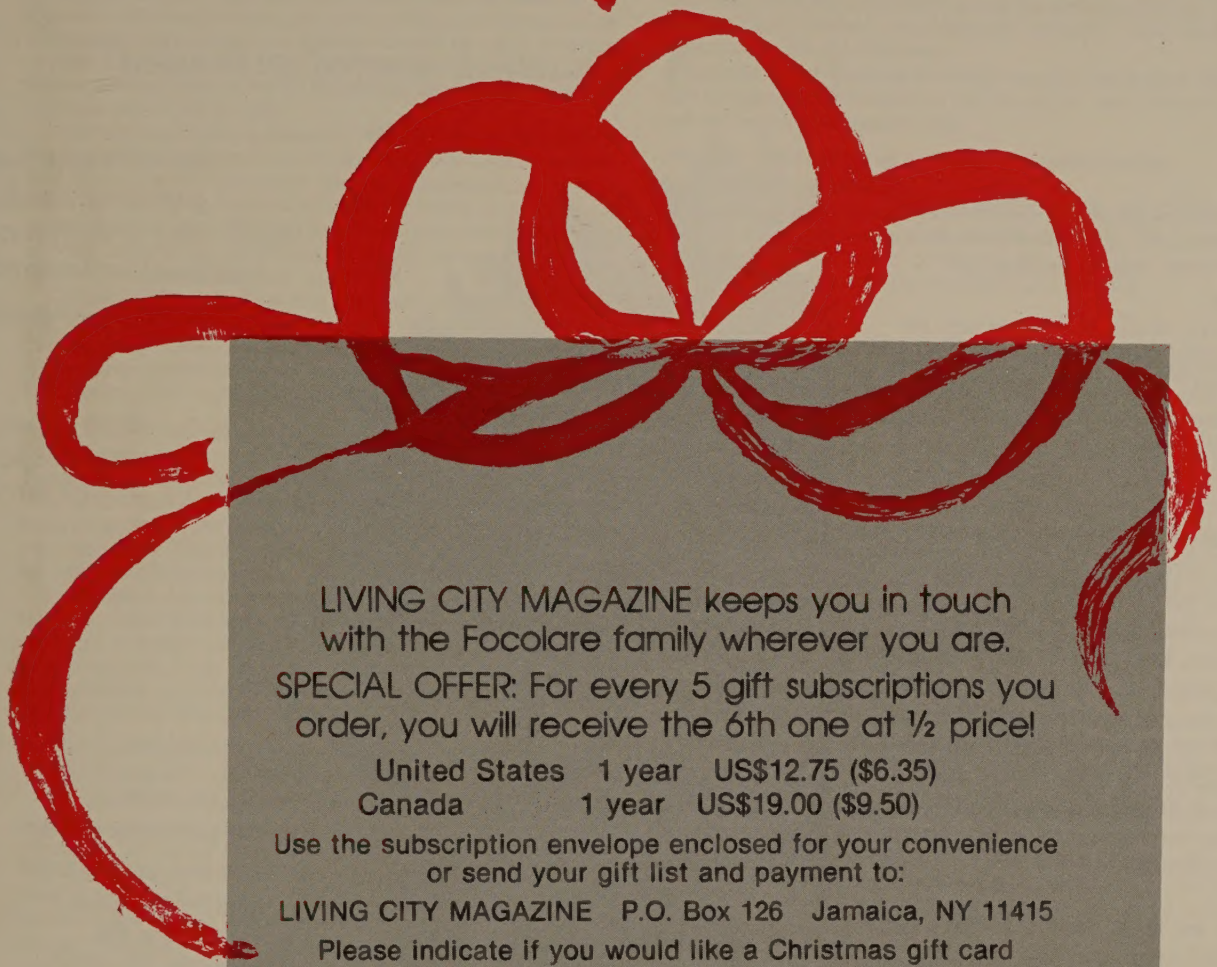
"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

"Put on the armor of light." Paul borrows the imagery of armor from military life. It is a concept which suggests vigilance, decisiveness, courage, total commitment.

In so doing, Paul is saying that the Christian has to totally commit himself to living the words of Jesus, especially love of neighbor. The words of Jesus are the armor a Christian puts on in order to face situations and resolve problems, decisively taking action against the mentality of the world.

Christ's followers should know how to take advantage of every opportunity to put into practice his commandment of love. In fact, a person's allotted ►

1986 CHRISTMAS



LIVING CITY MAGAZINE keeps you in touch with the Focolare family wherever you are.

SPECIAL OFFER: For every 5 gift subscriptions you order, you will receive the 6th one at ½ price!

United States 1 year US$12.75 ($6.35)
Canada 1 year US$19.00 ($9.50)

Use the subscription envelope enclosed for your convenience or send your gift list and payment to:

LIVING CITY MAGAZINE P.O. Box 126 Jamaica, NY 11415

Please indicate if you would like a Christmas gift card to be sent in your name.

AUDIO CASSETTES with talks by CHIARA LUBICH

FM 1 Meditations US$4.50
FM 2 Meditations US$4.50
FM 4 The Word of God US$4.50
FM 5 The Spirituality of the Focolare Movement US$6.50
FM 6 Jesus Forsaken: key to unity-1 US$6.50
FM 7 Economy and Work - A Christian Perspective US$6.50
FM 8 Jesus Forsaken: key to unity-2 US$6.50

Music cassette also available:

Greatest Hits from the Mariapolis by Gen Orange - $5.00

To order cassettes write to:

Focolare Movement, P.O. Box 496, New York, NY 10021

Please enclose payment with your order. Price includes shipping.

SPECIALS

A beautiful, useful gift idea!

Six all-occasion greeting cards, each with a different spiritual reflection.

Envelopes included.

$2.95 per pkg.
includes postage
and handling.

To order:
please send your name,
address and payment to:
Focolare Movement
P.O. Box 496
New York, NY 10021

"Nothing is small
if it is done out of love."
Chiara Lubich

time contains an uninterrupted sequence of opportunities to carry out this teaching of Jesus.

Every walk of life, every occupation, every locality, every activity—even the most menial—presents itself to us as an area in which we can put all our effort into living mutual love.

Indeed the family, the work place, one's profession, the social services one may perform, civic and political activities, the problems of peace, of justice, of the protection of life, etc., are all possibilities offered us to serve Jesus in our neighbor. This is the armor of light with which we are to clothe ourselves in order to meet Jesus.

"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

This word of life pulls the rug out from under the accusations leveled at times against Christianity that it distracts the believer from doing anything to resolve the world's problems. We should be able to say the contrary: if anyone does not involve themselves (perhaps under the pretext that life is short) they would be giving sufficient proof that they have not understood the practical consequences of the new commandment which Jesus left us. Jesus wants us to go to meet him having carried out works of evangelical love. By commissioning us to love one another he made us understand that the heavenly city is built by our work to build the earthly city.

Hence what characterizes the life of a Christian is anything but aloofness and flight from the world. It is a particular style of involvement, totally inspired by the words of Jesus and service to one's neighbor.

"Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

This word of life, therefore, makes us reflect on how we should go to meet Jesus. It is certain that Jesus will come. He will come at the end of our lives, to crown our efforts to live his words. He will come at the end of time—as we profess in the Creed—to crown our work to build society according to the commandment of mutual love.

Now, such a certainty can not leave us indifferent. It needs to be translated into involvement, decisiveness, boldness, and ever-renewed freshness.

The only thing that will remain, when we meet Jesus at the end of our lives, will be how much of the Gospel we have lived; how much we have loved others.

Chiara Lubich

1. Cf. Eph. 4:22.

What is the Focolare Movement?

THE BEGINNINGS

FOCOLARE means "hearth," "family fireside." What first strikes people when they come in contact with members of the Focolare, whether in small groups or in large gatherings, is the atmosphere of a family. It is a family formed by many different people in various walks of life. The Focolare Movement is also known as the "Work of Mary." Under this name it was approved by Pope John XXIII in 1962.

The Focolare Movement began in 1943 in Italy. In the midst of the terrible destruction of World War II, Chiara Lubich realized that God is the only one worth living for. As a result, she began to center her life on the Gospel, together with a small group of young women who followed her. Their ideal became one of striving toward the fulfillment of Jesus' last prayer to the Father: "May they all be one" (Jn.17:21).

The life of Chiara and her first companions, and the spiritual way they spontaneously followed, gave rise to the unique form of spirituality of the Focolare Movement, a spirituality of unity. It has proved to be a powerful means of introducing the Gospel into modern life, of going to God together.

WHO ARE THE FOCOLARINI

Single men and women live in separate communities called Focolare Centers. Their principal aim is to achieve unity among themselves through mutual charity practiced twenty-four hours a day. They follow the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. They work as other laymen and women in regular jobs and professions.

Some married persons, even though continuing to live in their families, participate fully in the life of either the men's or women's Focolare Centers in their common effort to achieve this same unity. They are called "Married Focolarini" and form the backbone of a vast Movement within the Movement, called the New Family Movement.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE NEW HUMANITY MOVEMENT

The Volunteers, also called the "Volunteers of God," are a large group within the Focolare Movement; they would like to transform all human realities according to the Gospel spirit. The Volunteers are the backbone of the mass movement called New Humanity. The aim of this Movement is to help form a society made of men and women who are made "new" by the Gospel message and who can then bring new life to all fields of human activity (education, business, etc.). This results in new social relationships which, in turn, lead to the realization of new structures of society.

GEN

The new generations of the Focolare Movement form another Movement or, better, three movements: the Gen 2, the Gen 3 and the Gen 4 Movements, divided according to their various age groups. "Gen" stands for new generation. The Gen have committed themselves to living the Gospel message of love and to sharing with other youth the conviction they have that the Gospel is the answer to every question and the motive for everything they do.

THE MOVEMENT AMONG THE RELIGIOUS

Men and women religious — although they live according to their own rules and constitutions and are already a distinct part of the Church through their religious families — can also be associated with the Focolare.

Contact with the Movement helps them to focus their attention on the specific charism of their founders, and to see how it can be lived in the present time.

PRIESTS — PRIESTS' MOVEMENT —SEMINARIANS — PARISH MOVEMENT

Many diocesan priests are committed to living the spirituality of the Focolare Movement. Some of them live in community. They form the backbone of the Priests' Movement which is made up of priests who live the spirituality of unity.

FOCOLARE FAMILY

The largest group within the Focolare Movement is made up of men, women and young people who are connected with the Movement without having any formal ties with it. Their bond of unity stems from their acceptance of its spirit and their desire to live it.

ECUMENISM

The Movement not only crossed the political boundaries of more than 100 countries, it has also gone beyond the barriers erected for centuries between the various Christian Churches.

Ecumenical activities take place in the different parts of the world where the Movement exists.

In the past few years a promising, ongoing dialogue has been established with faithful of other religions.

SUMMER MARIAPOLIS

Summer meetings are held every year for those interested in the Movement and for those who wish to come into contact with it. For one week persons of all ages and walks of life are exposed to the spirituality of unity. Above all, they strive to practice it by creating among themselves a rapport that molds them into a community. It is intended to be a basic experience of such intense unity that the people will be able to bring it back into their own environments. And this is the most striking fruit of these conventions. They tend to be models of a world which lives according the Gospel.

PERMANENT MARIAPOLIS

The need to prolong the experience of the summer meetings brought about the birth of small cities called Permanent Mariapolis. They are made up of young men and women, as well as whole families, who are there for a designated period of time to be formed according to the Gospel spirit of unity.

They also attend classes in Sacred Scripture, Theology and Sociology and work for their own support.

MARIAPOLIS CENTERS

In addition to the Permanent Mariapolis, there are Mariapolis Centers, which are training centers for the members of the Movement.

FOCOLARE ADDRESSES IN NORTH AMERICA

CHICAGO:
P.O. Box 53426
Chicago, IL 60653

SAN ANTONIO:
P.O. Box 32302
San Antonio. TX 78216

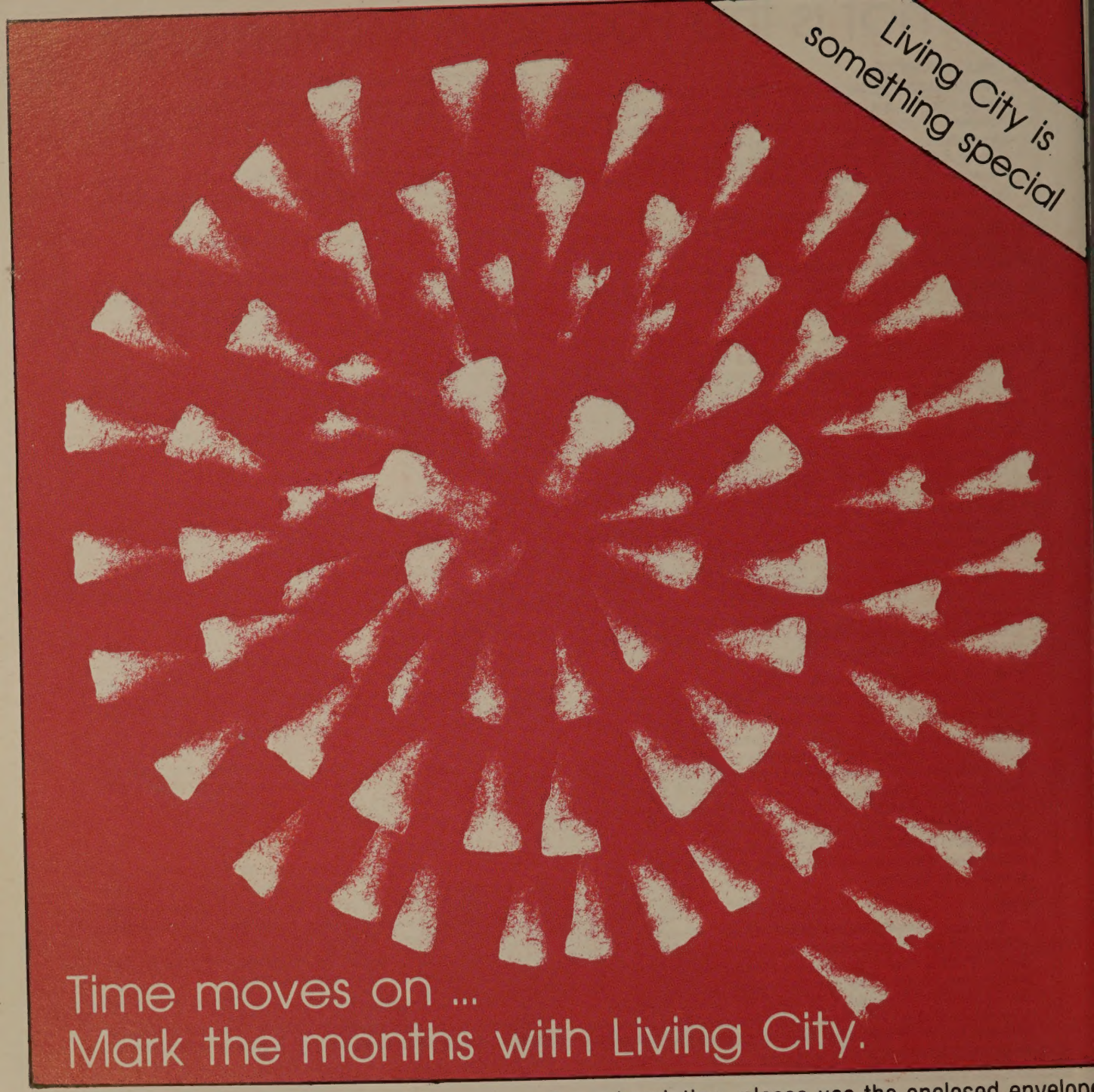
NEW YORK:
P.O. Box 496
New York, NY 10021

BOSTON:
P.O. Box 239
Roslindale, MA 02131

WASHINGTON, DC:
P.O. Box 4958
Washington, DC 20008

LOS ANGELES
P.O. Box 71701
Los Angeles, CA 90071

TORONTO:
P.O. Box 302 — Stn.T
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M6B 4A3



For subscription, please use the enclosed envelop

LIVING CITY
P.O. Box 126
JAMAICA, NEW YORK 11415

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 420
Long Island City, N.Y.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.